REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation. Claims 1-6 have been canceled and new claims 7-28 are submitted herein. The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moreau in view of Zollinger et al. and Murakami et al. The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moreau in view of Zollinger et al. and Lund. The Examiner rejected claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moreau in view of Zollinger et al. and Lund, and further in view of Wernicke. Such rejections are traversed in light of the new claims herein.

Moreau et al. disclose an ultrasonic measuring head integrated with the necessary electronics (reference numbers **4-8**), not a separate ultrasonic measuring head, separate carrier members and a separate cable reel. Moreau et al. are not able to integrate a power supply or the cable reel of Murakami et al. with the portion of the disclosed device which is transported within the pipe to be inspected because the resulting apparatus would be too large to traverse typical pipe bends.

In the apparatus of Zollingger et al. these elements are also not separate, but connected together into a continuous, flexible rabbit by solid polyurethane seal sections **50**. These sections are approximately the same diameter as body modules **26**, and in fact comprise seal **51** which has a larger diameter than that of the body modules. Communication wire **60** does not have sufficient tensile rigidity to propel the apparatus of Zollingger et al. through the pipe; large diameter seal sections **50** are required to perform this function. Thus the present invention is far better able to traverse high angle, low radius bends, due to the superior bendability of the small diameter coupling tubes used. Adding the cable reel of Murakami et al. to this apparatus is possible, but it is not obvious to connect it to the apparatus of Zollingger et al. with a coupling tube of the present invention.

Nothing in the above references, whether viewed alone or combined, teaches or suggests the limitations of the present claims, particularly the use of bendable coupling tubes, having tensile rigidity and relatively small diameter, to connect individual apparatus modules together.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Also being filed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time to August 20, 2004, with the appropriate fee. A check for the additional claims fee is also being filed herewith. Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of the Petition paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

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